

To Hold the Sky and Identify with Jesus

A Gender Analysis on the Kairos Palestine document (KPD)



Rula Salsa, *Misunderstanding*, painting in oil.

*Let us love the holiness
of our souls and bodies
because apart from this,
no one will see the Lord.*

*Melania the Younger (383-439 A.C.)
to her sisters at Mount of Olives, Jerusalem*

Geronthius, *Life of Melania the Younger*, § 45, <http://cuapress.cua.edu/books/frontmatter/MIWE.pdf>.

Introduction by Jean Zaru

I see that Kairos (the KPD¹) does not deal with women's issues. The pain of sexism is eclipsed by the lack of national liberation. I think *all the structures of violence and domination are very inter-related*. We cannot become free if women are not free. Some women think that they are very involved in the service they offer to their homes, church and community. Is it enough to serve without being part of the decision making processes in the church and in society. The consciousness of many women of their rights sometimes have not awakened and she goes on reinforcing the structures of injustice.

Also we still live in a patriarchal system. This is experienced daily in the church and society. Very few women speak up in the presence of leaders. Many are struggling very hard to put bread on the table for their families. Women do a lot, and often they hold the sky and not half of it.

Obedience to lack of equality and opportunity in all spheres of life should be recognized. The men and women should work together to transform our societies and bring justice to all.

We are struggling on so many fronts, and at times I feel drained and exhausted, but I will not give up for the sake of all.

All religions believe in the indwelling divinity in all people. This means we are all equal Children of God. This empowered me to resist the inequalities that I live with. Because deeply in myself I felt equal. When entering this new landscape, this new way in the world, one is immediately washed with a sense of both humble privilege and precious responsibility. Recognizing the divine in myself led me to recognize it in all other peoples and creation.

This recognition is nothing short of radical. It has left me with no alternative but to become immersed in the struggle for human rights and justice, for all and without exception. It has left me with no alternative but to explore non-violent means of bringing forth social and political change in my community, and being open to the truth in other faiths and nationalities.

If my spirituality is based on equality and human dignity, it will empower me to resist, but I cannot resist violently. I am against structures of domination that do not practice equality, but I am not against people.

Equality is the basic rule.

Jean Zaru quoted in section 1.

¹ www.kariospalestine.ps